

Library

WESTHOUGHTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year 1953.



*With the Compliments of
the Medical Officer of Health*



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30266300>

Westhoughton Urban District Council.

Public Health Committee

Chairman: Mrs. W. Kettle J.P., C.C.

Vice Chairman: Councillor A. Ormesher.

Councillors:

Mrs. Ashworth H. Nickson

T. West

J. Higson A.G. Woods

Public Health Officers of the Authority

Medical Officer of Health:

T. Patton Sewell, T.D., M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H. V.U. Manc.*

Sanitary Inspector:

J. Occleshaw, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerical Assistant:

Miss E.A. Gerrard.

*Also Divisional Medical Officer: Divisional Health

Committee No. 11, Lancashire County Council.

Divisional School Medical Officer
Lancashire County Council.

Medical Officer of Health:

Borough of Leigh,
Urban District of Atherton,
" " " Horwich,
" " " Tyldesley.



Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Westhoughton.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District of Westhoughton for the year 1953, together with certain statistical information thereto, for your information and consideration.

STATISTICS:

The population of the district in 1953 was 14,830, a further decrease on the figure ascertained at the census in 1931.

During the year a total of 172 births were registered, of which 6 were still births, so that the Live Birth Rate for the year under review is 11.1 as against 13.1 the previous year, and the Still Birth Rate 35 as against 39 in 1952.

Ten infants failed to survive to their first birthday giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 36 for the year, as against 5 deaths and a rate of 25 the previous year.

I am again pleased to be able to report that there has been no maternal death. The Maternal Mortality Rate therefore remains at nil.

The number of deaths, from all causes, was 164 giving a Crude Death Rate of 11.1.

HEALTH SERVICES

The Lancashire County Council, through its Divisional Health Scheme, 1947, has continued to provide the personal health services in the district, details of which will be found in Section B of the report, together with certain essential information in regard to other services.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

As previously the sanitary circumstances in the district have been kept under close supervision details of which will be found in Section C. Particular attention has been given to water, milk and food supplies and to housing.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There has been no serious outbreak of infectious disease during the year.

Details of the various diseases concerned will be found in Section F of the Report.

Yours sincerely,

T. PATTON SEWELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions of the area.

GENERAL

Area of the district, in acres	-	5,554
Population - 1953, Estimated	-	14,830
" - 1931, Census	-	16,018
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of year	-	4,829
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	-	£279

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
(a) <u>Live births</u> - Legitimate	83	77	160
Illegitimate	4	2	6
	<u>87</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>166</u>
<u>Live Birth Rate</u> (per 1,000 population) - 11.1			
(b) <u>Still births</u>	6	-	6
<u>Still Birth Rate</u> (per 1,000 total births) - 35			
(c) <u>Total Births</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>172</u>

DEATHS

(a) <u>Infantile</u> - Neonatal	-	4
Other	-	6
Total		<u>10</u>
<u>Neonatal Death Rate</u> (per 1,000 live births)	-	24
<u>Total Infantile Mortality Rate</u> (" " ")	-	36

DEATHS (Cont'd).

(b) Maternal Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate Nil

(c) Cancer.. ... 18

(d) Measles ... Nil

(e) Whooping Cough ... Nil

(f) Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... Nil

(g) Tuberculosis - Pulmonary 1

Non Pulmonary Nil

(h) All Causes:-

Male 87

Female ... 77

Total 164

Death Rate (per 1,000 population)

(a) Crude - 11.2

(b) Adjusted - 11.1

The following is a statement showing comparative

statistics for the years 1948 - 53.

	Live births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	Total		Neo-natal	
									No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
Year 1953	172	11.1	164	11.6	6	35	Nil	Nil	10	36	4	24
Year 1952	197	13.1	178	11.9	8	39	Nil	Nil	5	25	3	15
" 1951	178	11.9	197	13.2	4	22	Nil	Nil	3	17	2	11
" 1950	189	12.6	197	13.1	9	45	Nil	Nil	4	21	2	11
" 1949	197	13.2	164	11.0	9	44	Nil	Nil	7	36	-	-
" 1948	227	15.1	170	11.3	5	21	Nil	Nil	4	17	-	-
Average 5 Years 1948 - 1952	-	13.2	-	12.1	-	34	-	Nil	-	23	-	9

The following table gives the number of
deaths from the various causes during the year 1953:-

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	1	1
Syphilitic disease	-	1	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	-	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus and lymphatic neoplasms	8	3	11
Leukaemia aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	18	14	32
Coronary disease, angina	11	8	19
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
Other heart disease	16	21	37
Other circulatory diseases	4	3	7
Influenza	1	-	1
Pneumonia	1	-	1
Bronchitis	2	2	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	2	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	12	18
Motor vehicle accidents	3	2	5
All other accidents	6	1	7
Suicide	1	-	1
Total	87	77	164

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

No material change.

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services
for the Area.

Ambulance Service

Leigh Ambulance Station - Tel. Leigh 939.
Horwich " " - Tel. Horwich 673.

Care of Children - Children Act, 1948.

Children's Committee, Lancs. C.C. - Area 9.
Area Children's Officer - Miss D.B. Roberts, Hyde Lodge,
Clarendon Rd., Eccles.
Tel. Eccles 1877.

Clinics

1. Antenatal

Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
Thursday 9.30 - 12.0a.m.

2. Diphtheria Immunisation

- (a) General Practitioner Service
- (b) Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton,
by appointment.

3. Maternity and Child Welfare

Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
Tuesday and Thursday 1.45 - 4.0p.m.

4. Ophthalmic

Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
1st & 3rd Wednesday a.m. each month.
Last Friday a.m. " "

5. Orthopaedic

School Health Clinic, Jones Street, Horwich.
1st Wednesday each month.

6. Postnatal

Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
Thursday 9.30 - 12.0a.m.

7. School Health and Minor Ailment.

School Health Clinic, Market Street, Westhoughton.
Monday and Thursday a.m.

8. Speech Therapy.

Stone House Clinic, Leigh.
By appointment.

9. Tuberculosis Dispensary and Chest Clinic.

- (a) Church Street, Leigh.
- (b) Civic Centre, Bolton.

10. Venereal Diseases

- (a) Civic Centre, Bolton.

Males and Females:-

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30a.m. - 12.30p.m.
2.00p.m. - 7.30p.m.

- (b) Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.

Males - Wednesday 2.00p.m. - 7.00p.m.
Females - Wednesday 2.00p.m. - 4.00p.m.
4.30p.m. - 7.00p.m.

Convalescence

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C. Apply to Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Convalescent Treatment

Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital Board.

Health Visiting Service

A Health Visitor/ School Nurse is employed full-time by the Lancs. C.C. in the district.

Home Help Service

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C. Apply to the Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Home Nursing Service

Two District Nurses are employed full-time in the District by the Lancs. C.C.

Hospitals

Royal Infirmary Bolton;
Bolton District General Hospital, Farnworth;
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan; and other general and infectious disease hospitals situated in the area of the Regional Hospital Board.

Laboratory Facilities

Regional Hospital Laboratory facilities at Bolton and Wigan Infirmaries, and the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

Maternity Homes

"Haslam", "Havercroft" and "Heaton Grange" Maternity Homes, Bolton. "Firs" Maternity Home, Leigh.

Midwifery Service

Two full-time domiciliary midwives are employed in the district by the Lancs. C.C.

Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children

Provision for their care is made by the Lancs. C.C.

Welfare Services

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C. Residential accommodation at Atherleigh Grange and Townleys Annexe. Apply to Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh. No hostels in the district.

Xray Facilities

Available at the Bolton and Wigan Infirmaries. Special facilities for chest Xray at the Hospital Board's Dispensaries and Chest Clinics.

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supply

Bolton Corporation supply the district with water which is derived from upland gathering grounds, and is treated and filtered before going into supply. The water is of good quality but being soft in nature there is a tendency to plumbo solvent action and all lead service piping is tin lined. All dwellings are supplied directly with water from the mains but from the point of view of quantity the supply to the higher parts of the district is distinctly poor. A Scheme involving the laying of new mains has been completed and it is hoped that this will improve the conditions now existing. The Authority is at the present time inviting tenders for a new service reservoir with a capacity of 500,000 gallons.

The water is bacteriologically examined at Manchester and Bolton and 11 samples were examined during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage

This is on the combined system. There is one main sewage disposal plant at Rogers Farm and three subsidiary plants at Dicconson Lane, Dog Holes Farm and Marsh Brook respectively.

Closet Accommodation

At the end of 1953 the approximate numbers and types of closet accommodation were as follows:-

Number of Privy Middens	84
Number of closets attached to these middens	109
Number of Pail Closets	16
Number of Dry Ashpits	58
Number of Moveable Ashbins	4933
Number of Trough Closets (3 installations, Schools)	3
Number of Waste Water Closets	53
Number of Fresh Water Closets	5173

Conversions during 1953.

Number of Privy Closets to Fresh W.C.'s	-
Number of Privy Closets to Pails	-
Number of Waste Water Closets to Fresh W.C.'s	6
Number of premises at which moveable ashbins were substituted for fixed receptacles	21
Trough Closets to Washdown Pedestals (none installed)	-

Public Cleansing

Refuse collection and disposal is carried out by the Local Authority under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector and during the year a weekly collection was maintained, the exception being during holiday periods when a slight variation of schedule was unavoidable. The 44 hour week is compressed into five working days from March to October and extended to five and a half working days in winter, three motor vehicles being employed.

The privy middens which are situated in unsewered portions of the district are emptied regularly, all refuse being disposed of by controlled tipping.

Street scavenging is the responsibility of the Surveyor and is done with manual labour.

Salvage

The collection of paper, textiles and kitchen waste was maintained throughout the year but income from this source only amounted to £412.

The fall in income is due to the reduction in the price of waste paper which made the collection and baling of this material an uneconomic proposition and in consequence collections were restricted.

The falling off of the amount of Kitchen Waste also contributed to the reduction in income.

Sanitary Inspections

Premises visited	986
Number of visits:-	4153
Housing and Nuisances	1490
Factories	258
Infectious Diseases	17
Rodent Control	18
Offensive Trades	97
Schools	221
Shops	518
Bakehouses	186
Fish Friers	45
Butchers Shops	494
Ice Cream Premises	94
Miscellaneous	872

Defects or Nuisances:-	
Number discovered	333
Number abated	286

No. of Notices served:-	
Informal	165
Statutory	-
No legal proceedings were taken during the year.	

Outwork

There are no outworkers in the district.

Shops and Offices

No action has been taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, and the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and sanitary accommodation but 518 inspections of shops have been carried out on behalf of the Lancashire County Council.

Smoke Abatement

Twenty observations were taken during the year but no action was taken as a result of these.

Offensive Trades

We have one tripe dresser and one fat melter within the district, these premises are regularly visited.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common Lodging Houses in the district.

Swimming Baths and Pools

There are no swimming baths or pools in the district.

Disinfestation

During the year no cases of bed bug infestation were dealt with by the department.

Schools

The water supply to the Schools in the area is constant and sufficient, and regular colour washing of the conveniences is carried out. Three schools still have trough closets in use, 221 inspections have been made of the sanitary accommodation.

Factories &c.

Regular visits were paid to factories.

Inspections	On Register	Inspections	No. of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuting
Premises without mechanical power	11	24	5	-
Premises with mechanical power	68	206	2	-
Other Premises	6	28	3	-
	85	258	10	-

Cases in which Defects were Found

Particulars	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness	-	-
Unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences	10	9

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

There are no premises in the area where rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

Rodent Control

During 1953 the work of rodent control continued, one part-time operative being employed.

All rat and mice infestations are promptly dealt with, private dwellings without conditions conducive to infestation, being treated free of charge. Treatment of business premises is charged on a basis of men's time and materials used.

Thirty one surface infestations were dealt with and in addition the sewers and sewage works in the district were systematically treated twice, in February and August.

Camping Sites

There are two licenced camping sites in the district which are occupied by one van in each case.

SECTION D

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk Supply

There are 70 cow keepers in the district 14 of which produce graded milk. The milk produced on these premises was sampled on 273 occasions. Six farmers from the outside districts retail raw milk in the area and these supplies were sampled on 18 occasions.

A total of 283 samples were submitted for examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli and of these 16 or 5.7% were found to be positive.

It will be noted that 5.7% of the samples of raw milk revealed the presence of tubercle bacilli as compared with 3.4% during 1952. One case occurred in an "Accredited" herd.

No milk supply was diverted for heat treatment,

All milk supplied to schools is heat treated.

Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, 55 persons were granted dealers licences to sell sterilised milk and 11 persons to sell pasteurised milk. Six dealers licences for the sale of Tuberculin Tested and one licence for the sale of Accredited milk were also issued.

Action taken by the local authority in relation to samples taken in the district:-

(a) Raw Milk

(i) Tuberculosis - biological test

No. of samples ...283... No. negative ...267... No. positive16.....

(ii) Methylene Blue Reduction Test

No. of samples ...275... No. satisfactory 244.. No. unsatisfactory .31.....

(b) "Heat treated" milk - "pasteurised".

(i) Phosphatase test

No. of samples....12... No. satisfactory.12.. No. unsatisfactory ..7.....

(ii) Methylene Blue Reduction Test

No. of samples....12... No. satisfactory.12.. No. unsatisfactory ..7.....

"Sterilised"

(iii) Turbidity test

No. of samples.....8... No. satisfactory...8... No. unsatisfactory ..7.....

No. of notifications of tuberculous milk forwarded to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in respect of:-

- (a) milk produced in the district 16
(b) milk produced in other districts -

Result of Ministry investigations within the district during the year arising from notifications by the local authority:-

- No. of veterinary inspections.. ... 18
No. of cases where animals seized under Tuberculosis Order, 1938 12
No. of animals seized 14
No. of cases reported negative where animals has been sold prior to investigation 4
No. of cases reported negative, no animals seized -

Ice Cream

Forty-one premises are registered for the sale of ice cream which is mainly "prepacked".

Ninety-five samples were collected and submitted for examination, six of which proved to be unsatisfactory.

Where samples on examination were found to be below Grade II special visits were made to those premises situated within the area. In the case of samples from a source outside the district the appropriate local authority was informed and follow-up samples taken.

Shell Fish

No cases of illness due to consumption of shell fish were reported.

Food Premises

All shops, stalls, vans, food stores, food preparing premises are inspected regularly as part of routine work and every opportunity was taken to press the paramount importance of real cleanliness at all times.

Bakehouses

Thirty-one Bakehouses are registered in the district and are kept in fairly satisfactory condition, 186 inspections of these premises were made during the year.

Meat

The slaughter-houses in the district are out of use but the carcasses of 11 pigs which were slaughtered under the Self Suppliers Scheme were examined.

Meat retailers premises are inspected regularly 494 inspections being carried out.

Food Condemned

The following foodstuffs were condemned and surrendered:-

Pressed Meat	6 lbs.
Jellied Veal	18 lbs.
Cooked Ham	254 lbs.
Pork Luncheon Meat	12 tins
Beef	105 lbs.
Lamb	100 lbs.
Salmon	6 tins
Fresh Salmon	32 lbs.
Potato Crisps	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ tins
Beans	37 tins
Tinned Fruit	212 tins
Sweet Corn	9 tins
Milk	32 tins
Tomatoes	6 tins
Eggs	9 doz.
Peas	29 tins
Soup	9 tins
Tinned Fish	7 tins
Tongue Ox	36 lbs.
Stewed Steak	8 tins
Carrots (one tin)	6 lbs.
Corned Mutton	1 tin
Stewed Mutton	1 tin
Beef and Dumplings	1 tin

Food Poisoning

No cases have been reported.

SECTION E

Housing

Statistics

Sixty traditional type houses and four shops with maisonettes were completed on Hindleys Estate and the following accommodation was in course of construction at the end of the year, 16 x 2 bedroom type flats, 53 x 3, 9 x 2 bedroom type houses and 8 x 1 bedroom type bungalows for aged people. A further 8 x 2 bedroom type houses and 4 x 2 bedroom type bungalows are on contract and will be commenced during 1954.

Conditions - General Observations

Of the older houses in the district most consist of the four room cottage type, built in terraced rows. These are moderately well maintained but lack such amenities as baths and hot water installations.

Quite a few of these houses are now owner-occupied and in addition to being well maintained have been considerably improved.

Sufficiency of Supply of Houses

There were 431 applicants on the Council's Housing List, of these 266 were without separate homes and 165 were householders.

Fitness of Houses

The repair and maintenance of the houses still remains a major problem which is constantly under observation by the Department, nevertheless there is a gradual decline in the standard of house maintenance due to the high cost of repairs. The erection of new houses will not by itself solve the desperate problem now facing the country - the maintenance of existing property in a sound state of repair.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Chicken Pox

The disease is not notifiable in the district. It is mainly of importance because of its tendency to simulate smallpox.

Diphtheria

No case occurred in the district. The need to continue immunisation, however, remains.

Dysentery

No case was reported.

Acute Infectious Encephalitis

No case reported.

Erysipelas

No case reported.

Food Poisoning

This disease is notifiable under Section 17 of the Food and Drugs Act. No case was reported.

Malaria

No new or recurrent case reported.

Measles

A total of 188 notifications were received as against 64 the previous year. The disease was again mild in character no untoward complications were reported, no case justified admission to hospital and all recovered.

Meningococcal Infection

No case notified.

Paratyphoid Fever

No case notified.

Pneumonia

The number of cases decreased from 4 in 1952 to 3 this year. One died as against five the previous year.

Polioencephalitis

No case notified.

Poliomyelitis ("Infantile Paralysis")

Three cases occurred during the year.

Puerperal Pyrexia

One case notified.

Scarlet Fever

Ten cases occurred as against 18 in 1952. Again the disease was mild in character, no complications were reported, only one had to be admitted to hospital and all recovered.

Smallpox

No case or contact reported.

Tuberculosis

Six new cases of respiratory and one of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year as against four respiratory and three non-respiratory the previous year. Only one death, from pulmonary disease, occurred.

Whooping Cough

Twenty-six cases of whooping cough were notified as against 12 the previous year.

Cases of infectious diseases (other than tuberculosis)
notified during the year, 1953.

	Cases Notified								Total Deaths	Cases removed to Hospital
	Total cases all ages	Under 1	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Diphtheria	-									
Dysentery	-									
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	-									
Erysipelas	-									
Food Poisoning	-									
Measles	188	10	34	62	81		1			
Meningococcal Infection	-									
Pneumonia	3		1	1				1		2
Polioencephalitis	-									
Poliomyelitis	3			2	1					3
Puerperal Pyrexia	1						1			1
Scarlet Fever	10			1	9					1
Small Pox	-									
Whooping Cough	26	2	12	9	3					
Total	231	12	47	75	94		2	1		7

Tuberculosis

New Cases and Mortality during 1953.

Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5		1	1					
10								
15								
20		1						
25	1							1
35		1						
45		1						
55	1							
65 and over					1			
	2	4	1	-	1	-	-	1
	6		1		1		1	

